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Criminal Victimization 1985

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The data in this bulletin update the preliminary estimates of victimization in 1985, which were released in April of this year. For the fourth year in a row, the overall level of crime decreased, bringing the number of crimes in the U.S. to the lowest level in the 13-year history of the National Crime Survey (NCS).

The National Crime Survey measures both crimes reported to the police and crimes not reported. The survey has consistently shown that almost two-thirds of all NCS crimes, including about half of all violent crimes, are not reported to the police.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

Criminal victimizations in the United States dropped by nearly 700,000 to about 34.9 million in 1985 for persons age 12 and older, according to the National Crime Survey (NCS). This decline continued a trend that has now reduced criminal victimizations to their lowest level in the 13-year history of the NCS, about 16% below the 41.5 million victimizations recorded in the peak year of 1981 (table 1).[1]

The victimization rate for robberies dropped 11% during the year to a new low, about 32% below the peak for these crimes, which occurred in 1981. The rate for personal larceny without contact, down 3% during the year, has been declining since 1977 and is now 30% below the rate for that year (figure 1).

[1] For definitions of the crimes measured by the National Crime Survey and a description of NCS operations, see Measuring Crime, Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, NCJ-75710, February 1981.

Trends in victimization rates for selected crimes, 1973-85

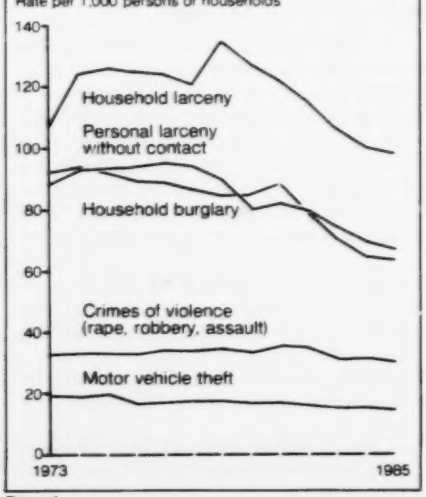

Figure 1

The National Crime Survey obtains information on criminal victimizations, whether or not the crime was reported to the police. Crimes were reported to the police in 1985 at a rate not measurably different from that of 1984. About one in three crimes measured by the NCS were reported to the police. The rate of police reporting has remained comparatively unchanged since measurement began in 1973.

Personal crimes decline

The victimization rate for personal crimes—crimes of violence and crimes of theft—declined 4% in 1985, resulting in approximately half a million fewer crimes in 1985 than in 1984 (table 2).

The victimization rate for robbery continued a downward trend begun in 1982 (table 3). The rate for 1985—5.1 victimizations per 1,000 persons—was 32% lower than its high point in 1981 and the lowest in NCS history (figure 2). The rate for completed robberies with injury decreased 29% from the previous year.

The victimization rate for rape declined from 0.9 per 1,000 persons to

Table 1. Victimization levels for selected crimes, 1973-85

	Number of victimizations (in 1,000's)			
	Total	Violent crimes	Personal theft	Household crimes
1973	35,661	5,350	14,970	15,340
1974	38,411	5,510	15,889	17,012
1975	39,266	5,573	16,294	17,400
1976	39,318	5,599	16,519	17,199
1977	40,314	5,902	16,933	17,480
1978	40,412	5,941	17,050	17,421
1979	41,249	6,159	16,382	18,708
1980	40,252	6,130	15,300	18,821
1981	41,454	6,582	15,863	19,009
1982	39,756	6,459	15,553	17,744
1983	37,001	5,903	14,657	16,440
1984	35,544	6,021	13,789	15,733
1985	34,864	5,823	13,474	15,568
Percent change, 1981-85[a]	-15.9[b]	-11.5[b]	-15.1[b]	-18.1[b]

[a] Total victimizations peaked in 1981.
[b] The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

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Table 2. Changes in victimization levels and rates for personal and household crimes, 1984–85

	Number of victimizations (1,000s)			Victimization rates		
	1984	1985	Percent change 1984–85	1984	1985	Percent change 1984–85
All crimes	35,544	34,864	-1.9%[b]	...	...	...
Personal crimes	19,810	19,296	-2.6[b]	103.2	99.4	-3.7%[b]
Crimes of violence	6,021	5,823	-3.3	31.4	30.0	-4.4
Completed	2,193	2,060	-6.0	11.4	10.6	-7.1
Attempted	3,828	3,762	-1.7	19.9	19.4	-2.8
Rape[a]	180	138	-23.0	0.9	0.7	-23.8[c]
Completed	61	71	16.6	0.3	0.4	15.2
Attempted	119	68	-43.2[b]	0.6	0.3	-43.8[b]
Robbery	1,097	985	-10.2	5.7	5.1	-11.2[c]
Completed	729	652	-10.5	3.8	3.4	-11.5
With injury	293	211	-27.8[b]	1.5	1.1	-28.6[b]
From serious assault	150	120	-20.2	0.8	0.6	-21.1
From minor assault	143	92	-35.9[b]	0.7	0.5	-36.6[b]
Without injury	436	440	1.1	2.3	2.3	0.0
Attempted	368	333	-9.5	1.9	1.7	-10.5
With injury	106	83	-22.1	0.6	0.4	-22.9
From serious assault	54	41	-23.2	0.3	0.2	-23.8
From minor assault	52	41	-20.9	0.3	0.2	-21.7
Without injury	262	250	-4.4	1.4	1.3	-5.5
Assault	4,744	4,699	-1.0	24.7	24.2	-2.0
Aggravated	1,727	1,605	-7.1[c]	9.0	8.3	-8.1
Completed with injury	606	508	-16.2[b]	3.2	2.6	-17.1[b]
Attempted assault with weapon	1,122	1,097	-2.1	5.8	5.7	-3.2
Simple	3,017	3,094	2.6	15.7	15.9	1.4
Completed with injury	798	830	4.1	4.2	4.3	2.9
Attempted assault without weapon	2,220	2,264	2.0	11.6	11.7	0.9
Crimes of theft	13,789	13,474	-2.3	71.8	69.4	-3.4[c]
Completed	12,969	12,764	-1.6	67.6	65.8	-2.7
Attempted	820	709	-13.5[b]	4.3	3.7	-14.4[b]
Personal larceny with contact	530	523	-1.3	2.8	2.7	-2.4
Purse snatching	125	106	-15.2	0.7	0.5	-16.2
Completed	91	83	-9.4	0.5	0.4	-10.3
Attempted	34	24	-30.7	0.2	0.1	-31.1
Pocket picking	404	416	3.0	2.1	2.1	1.9
Personal larceny without contact	13,259	12,951	-2.3	69.1	66.7	-3.4[c]
Completed	12,474	12,265	-1.7	65.0	63.2	-2.8
Less than $50	6,145	5,918	-3.7[c]	32.0	30.5	-4.8[c]
$50 or more	5,797	5,778	-0.3	30.2	29.8	-1.4
Amount not available	531	569	7.0	2.8	2.9	5.8
Attempted	786	686	-12.7[b]	4.1	3.5	-13.7[c]
Household crimes	15,733	15,568	-1.1%	178.7	174.4	-2.4%
Completed	13,324	13,244	-0.6	151.3	148.4	-2.0
Attempted	2,409	2,324	-3.6	27.4	26.0	-4.9
Burglary	5,643	5,594	-0.9	64.1	62.7	-2.2
Completed	4,322	4,354	0.7	49.1	48.8	-0.6
Forcible entry	1,844	1,827	-0.9	20.9	20.5	-2.3
Unlawful entry without force	2,478	2,527	2.0	28.1	28.3	0.6
Attempted forcible entry	1,321	1,240	-6.1	15.0	13.9	-7.4
Household larceny	8,750	8,703	-0.5	99.4	97.5	-1.9
Completed	8,167	8,067	-1.2	92.8	90.4	-2.6
Less than $50	3,982	3,886	-2.4	45.2	43.5	-3.7
$50 or more	3,791	3,758	-0.9	43.1	42.1	-2.2
Amount not available	394	424	7.5	4.5	4.7	6.1
Attempted	583	636	9.0	6.6	7.1	7.5
Motor vehicle theft	1,340	1,270	-5.2	15.2	14.2	-6.5
Completed	836	823	-1.5	9.5	9.2	-2.9
Attempted	505	447	-11.3	5.7	5.0	-12.6

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Percent change is based on unrounded figures. Victimization rates are calculated on the basis of the number of victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 and over or per 1,000 households. The population age 12 and over grew from 191,962,000 in 1984 to 194,097,000 in 1985, an increase of 1.1%. The number of households grew from 88,039,000 to 89,263,000 between 1984 and 1985, an increase of 1.4%.

[a]The victimization rate for female rape (the number of rapes per 1,000 women age 12 and over) was 1.6 in 1984 and 1.3 in 1985.

[b]The difference is statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.

[c]The difference is statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

...Not applicable.

0.7 per 1,000 persons. This decline was accounted for by the drop in the rate of attempted rapes from 0.6 to 0.3 victimizations per 1,000 persons.

There was no measurable difference in the overall rate for assault between 1984 and 1985. The rate for aggravated assault with injury, however, fell 17% from 3.2 to 2.6 per 1,000 persons.

The rate for personal crimes of theft—69.4 per 1,000 persons—dropped 3% during 1985. The 1985 rate was 29% below its peak in 1977 (table 4).

There was no measurable change in the rate for personal larceny with contact, which consists of purse snatching and pocket picking. These crimes occur far less often than noncontact larcenies. Consequently, actual changes in the level or rate of personal larceny with contact are much more difficult to measure.

Household crimes stable

Rates for the three household crimes measured by the NCS—burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft—remained basically unchanged between 1984 and 1985. However, the overall rate for household crimes for 1985—174 crimes per 1,000 households—is lower than for any year between 1973 and 1983.

The rate for burglary was 63 per 1,000 households. Household larceny occurred at a rate of 98 per 1,000 households and motor vehicle theft occurred at a rate of 14 per 1,000 households. Although not measurably different from the 1984 crime rates, the rates for burglary and household larceny were lower than at any time between 1973 and 1983. The rate for motor vehicle theft was lower than for any time between 1973 and 1982.

Police reporting unchanged

In 1985, 36% of all NCS crimes were reported to the police, a rate of reporting that has remained basically unchanged throughout the 1980s (table 5 and figure 3).[2] About half (48%) of all violent crimes, two-fifths (39%) of all household crimes, and one-fourth (27%) of all crimes of personal theft were reported.

The 1985 reporting rate did not change measurably for any major crime category. As in the past, motor vehicle theft, with roughly 7 in every 10 incidents reported to the police, had the highest rate of reporting; personal

[2]The aggregate rate of police reporting includes all the crime categories shown in table 5.

Table 3. Victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973–85

	Victimization rates per 1,000 population age 12 and over or per 1,000 households												
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Personal crimes													
Crimes of violence	32.6	33.0	32.8	32.6	33.9	33.7	34.5	33.3	35.3	34.3	31.0	31.4	30.0
Rape	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.7
Robbery	6.7	7.2	6.8	6.5	6.2	5.9	6.3	6.6	7.4	7.1	6.0	5.7	5.1
Assault	24.9	24.8	25.2	25.3	26.8	26.9	27.2	25.8	27.0	26.4	24.1	24.7	24.2
Aggravated assault	10.1	10.4	9.6	9.9	10.0	9.7	9.9	9.3	9.6	9.3	8.0	9.0	8.3
Simple assault	14.8	14.4	15.6	15.4	16.8	17.2	17.3	16.5	17.3	17.1	16.2	15.7	15.9
Crimes of theft	91.1	95.1	96.0	96.1	97.3	96.8	91.9	83.0	85.1	82.5	76.9	71.8	69.4
Personal larceny with contact	3.1	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7
Personal larceny without contact	88.0	92.0	92.9	93.2	94.6	93.6	89.0	80.0	81.9	79.5	74.0	69.1	66.7
Household crimes													
Household burglary	91.7	93.1	91.7	88.9	88.5	86.0	84.1	84.3	87.9	78.2	70.0	64.1	62.7
Household larceny	107.0	123.8	125.4	124.1	123.3	119.9	133.7	126.5	121.0	113.9	105.2	99.4	97.5
Motor vehicle theft	19.1	18.8	19.5	16.5	17.0	17.5	17.5	16.7	17.1	16.2	14.6	15.2	14.2

NOTE: Detail may not add to total shown because of rounding. Statistically significant differences between the rates for 1985 and each preceding year are identified in table 4.

Table 4. Comparison of changes in victimization rates for personal and household crimes, 1973–85

	Percent change in victimization rates											
	1973–85	1974–85	1975–85	1976–85	1977–85	1978–85	1979–85	1980–85	1981–85	1982–85	1983–85	1984–85
Personal crimes												
Crimes of violence	-7.8%	-9.0%	-8.6%	-7.9%	-11.5%	-11.0%	-13.1%	-9.8%	-15.1%	-12.5%	-3.2%*	-4.4%*
Rape	-25.3*	-27.6	-22.0*	-15.5*	-20.2*	-26.8*	-34.3	-24.5*	-25.3*	-12.3*	-11.7*	-23.8
Robbery	-24.8	-29.4	-25.0	-21.5	-18.5	-13.9	-19.0	-22.7	-31.6	-28.4	-15.9	-11.2
Assault	-2.7*	-2.5*	-3.9*	-4.2*	-9.6	-9.8	-11.0	-6.0	-10.2	-8.2	0.3*	-2.0*
Aggravated assault	-17.9	-20.4	-13.9	-16.1	-17.1	-14.7	-16.6	-10.7	-14.2	-11.2	3.8*	-8.1*
Simple assault	7.7	10.4	2.4*	3.4*	-5.2*	-7.1	-7.8	-3.3*	-8.0	-6.7	-1.5*	1.4*
Crimes of theft	-23.7	-27.0	-27.7	-27.8	-28.6	-28.3	-24.5	-16.4	-18.5	-15.9	-9.8	-3.4
Personal larceny with contact	-12.4*	-13.5*	-12.9*	-6.9*	1.5*	-13.8*	-6.3*	-11.2*	-17.2	-12.1*	-8.8*	-2.4*
Personal larceny without contact	-24.2	-27.5	-28.2	-28.4	-29.5	-28.7	-25.0	-16.6	-18.5	-16.0	-9.8	-3.4
Household crimes												
Household burglary	-31.7	-32.7	-31.6	-29.5	-29.2	-27.1	-25.5	-25.6	-26.7	-19.8	-10.4	-2.2*
Household larceny	-8.9	-21.2	-22.2	-21.4	-20.9	-18.7	-27.1	-22.9	-19.4	-14.4	-7.3	-1.9*
Motor vehicle theft	-25.4	-24.4	-27.0	-13.6	-16.1	-18.7	-18.8	-14.7	-16.8	-11.9	-2.4*	-6.5*

NOTE: Percent change calculated using rates that were rounded to the nearest hundredth.

*The difference is not statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

larceny without contact and household larceny, with only 1 in every 4 cases reported, had the lowest police reporting rates.

The National Crime Survey

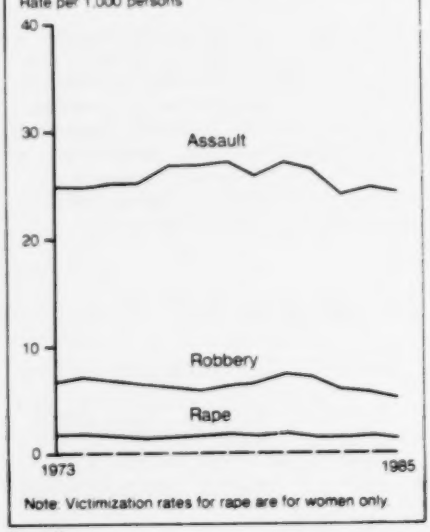
The NCS measures selected personal and household offenses, including crimes not reported to the police, through interviews at 6-month intervals with the occupants of housing units that make up a representative national sample. During 1985, some 101,000 persons—occupants of about 49,000 housing units—participated in the survey. Interviews are administered monthly to one-sixth of the sample, according to a rotation schedule. Information pertaining to the previous 6 months is gathered at each interview.

Preliminary estimates and sampling error

In April 1986, the Bureau of Justice Statistics released preliminary NCS victimization levels and rates, as well as police reporting data for 1985. When levels and rates of victimization for the early 1985 estimates are compared to the final 1985 results, the procedure used in calculating the preliminary estimates appears to have yielded reliable indicators of both magnitude and change in criminal victimization during 1985 (table 6). For example, the preliminary 1985 rate for household larceny was 97.1 per 1,000 households; the final rate was 97.5.[3]

Data collected in the National Crime Survey are obtained from a sample and not from a complete enumeration. Consequently, a sampling error (standard error) is associated with each number in this report, including the numbers measuring change. In general, if the difference between two numbers is greater than twice the

Trends in victimization rates for violent crimes, 1973-1985



Note: Victimization rates for rape are for women only.

Figure 2

[3]For a complete discussion of preliminary estimation procedures, see BJS Bulletin Criminal Victimization, 1983, NCJ-93869, June 1984.

Table 5. Reporting victimizations to the police, 1973-85

	Percent of victimizations reported to the police												
	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Personal crimes													
Crimes of violence	46%	47%	47%	49%	46%	44%	45%	47%	47%	48%	47%	47%	48%
Rape	49	52	56	53	58	49	51	41	56	53	47	56	61
Robbery	53	54	53	53	56	51	56	57	56	56	53	54	54
Assault	44	45	45	48	44	43	42	45	44	46	46	45	46
Aggravated assault	52	53	55	58	52	53	51	54	52	58	57	55	58
Simple assault	38	39	39	41	39	37	37	40	39	40	41	40	40
Crimes of theft	22	25	26	27	25	25	24	27	27	27	27	26	27
Personal larceny with contact	33	34	35	36	37	34	36	36	40	33	36	31	33
Personal larceny without contact	22	24	26	26	25	24	24	27	26	27	26	26	27
Household crimes													
Household burglary	47	48	49	48	49	47	48	51	51	49	49	49	50
Household larceny	25	25	27	27	25	25	25	28	26	27	25	27	27
Motor vehicle theft	68	67	71	70	68	66	68	69	67	72	69	69	71

Table 6. Preliminary estimates and final results for 1985 victimization levels and rates.

	Number of victimizations (in 1,000s)			Victimization rates		
	Prelim-inary	Final	Percent change	Prelim-inary	Final	Percent change
Personal crimes						
Crimes of violence	5,860	5,823	-0.6%	30.3	30.0	-0.8%
Rape	128	138	8.6	0.7	0.7	7.6
Robbery	976	985	0.9	5.0	5.1	0.6
Assault	4,758	4,699	-1.2	24.6	24.2	-1.5
Aggravated assault	1,694	1,605	-5.2	8.7	8.3	-5.5
Simple assault	3,063	3,094	1.0	15.8	15.9	0.8
Crimes of theft	13,160	13,474	2.4	67.9	69.4	2.2
Personal larceny with contact	443	523	18.0	2.3	2.7	17.5
Personal larceny without contact	12,719	12,951	1.8	65.7	66.7	1.6
Household crimes						
Household burglary	5,483	5,594	2.0	61.5	62.7	1.9
Household larceny	8,661	8,703	0.5	97.1	97.5	0.4
Motor vehicle theft	1,331	1,270	-4.6	14.9	14.2	-4.6

NOTE: Numbers and rates may not add to totals shown because of rounding. Percent changes were calculated based on unrounded numbers.

standard error for that difference, we can say that we are 95% confident that the two numbers are in fact different—that is, the apparent difference is not simply the result of surveying a sample and not the entire population. If the difference is greater than 1.6 standard errors, we are 90% confident that the two numbers are different. All comparisons made in the text are at or above the 90% confidence level. When differences between two numbers are below the 90% confidence level, the two numbers are described in the text as "not measurably different."

Trends in reporting to the police for selected crimes, 1973-1985

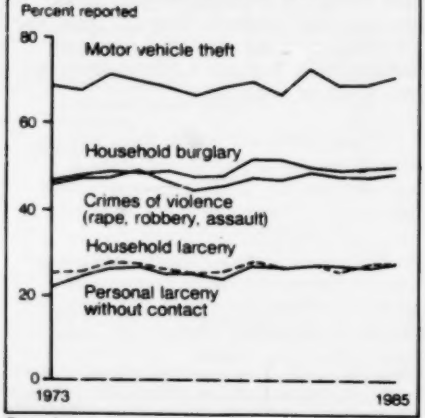


Figure 3

Methodological note

Beginning in 1985, slight changes were made in the classification of the personal crimes of robbery and assault when they occurred in commercial establishments. The 1984 data presented in this report have been adjusted to take this classification change into account and will differ slightly from previously published 1984 data.

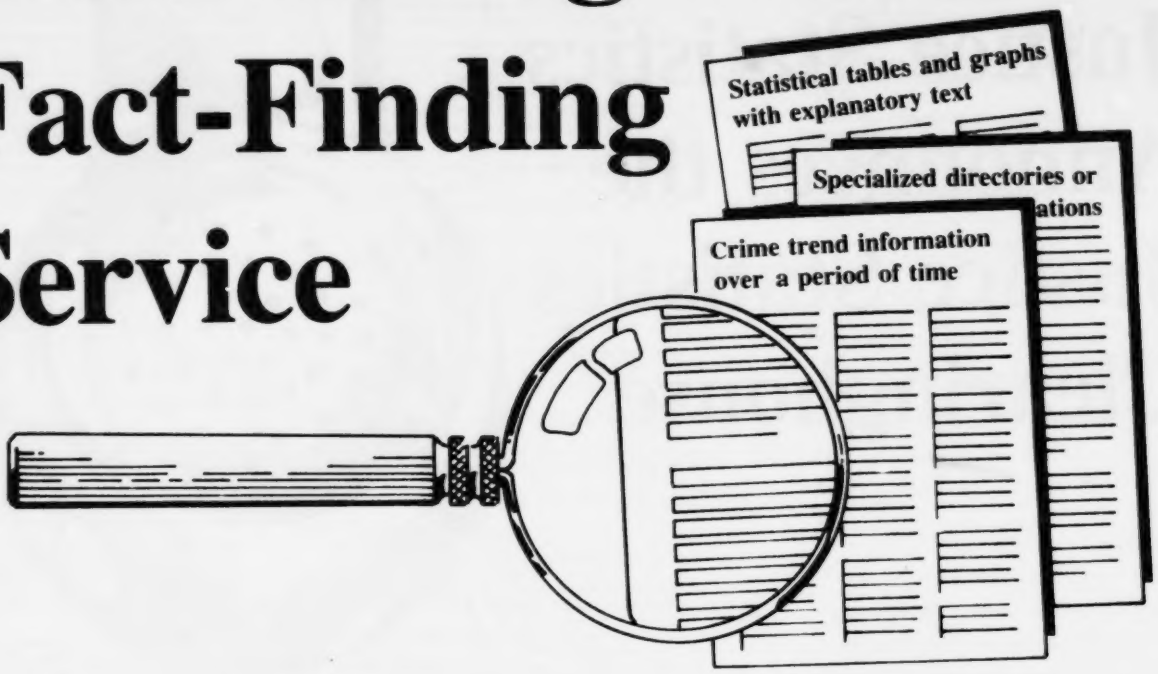
New releases from BJS:

- Prosecution of felony arrests, 1981, 129 pp., NCJ-101380, 9/86.
- Children in custody: 1982/83 census of juvenile detention and correctional facilities, 11 pp., NCJ-101686, 9/86.
- Children in custody: Public facilities census, 1985, BJS Bulletin, 8 pp., NCJ-102457, 10/86.
- State and Federal prisoners, 1925-85 (BJS Bulletin), 4 pp., NCJ-102494, 10/86.
- Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1985, 667 pp., NCJ-100899, 10/86.
- 1986 directory of automated criminal justice information systems, 1,000 pp., NCJ-102260, 10/86.
- National criminal defense systems study, 120 pp., NCJ-94702, 10/86.

Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletins are prepared principally by the staff of BJS. This bulletin was written by Marshall DeBerry and Anita Timrots. Carol B. Kalish, chief of data analysis, edits the bulletins. Marilyn Marbrook, publications unit chief, administers production, assisted by Tina Dorsey, Millie Baldea, and Joyce Stanford.

October 1986, NCJ-102534

Announcing the new Fact-Finding Service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The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), in conjunction with the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), announces the establishment of the Justice Statistics Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse toll-free number is:

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Persons from Maryland and the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area should call 301–251–5500.

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Public Juvenile Facilities, 1985

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Children in Custody

October 1986

A total of 1,040 publicly operated State and local juvenile detention, correctional, and shelter facilities held 49,322 juvenile residents on February 1, 1985, an increase of 1% from the same date in 1983. About 93% of the juveniles in custody were accused of, or had been adjudicated delinquent for, acts that would be criminal offenses if committed by adults. Most of the rest were "status offenders," such as truants, runaways, or curfew violators.

These findings are from the 1985 Census of Public Juvenile Detention, Correctional, and Shelter Facilities. This census collected information on 1-day counts of juveniles for February 1, 1985, and annual data for the calendar year 1984. A separate census of privately run facilities was also conducted in 1985. Its findings will be reported separately. Preliminary findings indicate that approximately 2,000 private facilities housed about 34,000 juveniles.

Other findings of the 1985 census of public juvenile confinement facilities include:

- The juvenile population was predominantly male (86%) and white (61%). Blacks accounted for 37% of the juveniles; other races, 2%.
- There were 185 juveniles confined in public juvenile facilities per 100,000 juveniles at least 10 years old in the general population, up 5% from 1983.
- The West had the highest confinement rate (327 per 100,000), followed by the Midwest (166), the South (162), and the Northeast (99). The West was also the only region to experience an increase between 1983 and 1985 in the number of juveniles in custody in public juvenile facilities (up 9%).
- During calendar year 1984, public juvenile facilities had just over half a million juvenile admissions (521,607) and discharges (515,301).
- On February 1, 1985, about 18% of public juvenile facilities had more residents than they were designed to hold, down from 21% in 1983. These 18% held 45% of all juveniles in public facilities, about the same proportion as in 1983.
- Most of the public juvenile facilities (56%) were locally operated; however, most of the juveniles (63%) were held in State-run facilities.
- Throughout the Nation, the average cost of housing one resident for a year in a public juvenile facility was $25,200. This figure was highest in the Northeast ($39,900), followed by the Midwest ($26,100), the West ($22,900), and the South ($22,700).
- Juveniles detained pending adjudication, disposition, or placement stayed an average of 12 days in custody; those committed by court authorities stayed an average of 163 days (just over 5 months); those who were voluntarily admitted stayed an average of 32 days.

Begun in 1971, the Children in Custody series is designed to provide biennial information on both public and private residential facilities holding juveniles in custody across the country and on the juveniles they hold. It was designed by the predecessor agency of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (the Statistics Division of the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration). The series replaced the annual survey on adjudicated delinquents conducted by the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, which was published in a series called Statistics on Public Institutions for Delinquent Children.

In 1977 the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) began sponsoring the Children in Custody series. In 1985 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) assumed responsibility for data analysis and report preparation as part of an interagency agreement with OJJDP. This publication is the first bulletin produced through the cooperative efforts of OJJDP and BJS. Data for the series are collected by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics gratefully acknowledges the contributions of the many administrators of public juvenile facilities nationwide to this data collection effort. Their cooperation and patience produced a questionnaire response rate of virtually 100%. It is hoped that this and subsequent publications will be useful to policymakers and practitioners in dealing with juvenile justice issues.

Steven R. Schlesinger
Director

Table 1. Average daily population and 1-day count of residents in public facilities, 1983 and 1985

	Number of residents	
	1983	1985
One-day count		
Juveniles[a]	48,701	49,322
Adults[b]	2,098	2,080
Total	50,799	51,402
Average daily population		
Juveniles[a]	48,245	47,496
Males	41,641	40,984
Females	6,604	6,512
Adults[b]	1,963	1,984
Total	50,208	49,480

Note: One-day counts are for February 1 of each year. Average daily population data are for the calendar years 1982 and 1984.
[a]Juveniles are persons of an age (usually under 18) specified by State statute, subject to juvenile court authority at the time of admission, regardless of age at the time of the census.
[b]Adults are persons not of juvenile age who are subject to the original jurisdiction of criminal court rather than juvenile court. Most of these adults are "youthful offenders" in the few States with youthful offender statutes.

Population

On February 1, 1985, public juvenile facilities nationwide housed 49,322 juveniles, 1% more than in 1983 (table 1). Throughout this report juveniles are those specified by State statute as subject to the authority of juvenile court (usually those under 18 years old), regardless of age at the time of the census.

In addition to juveniles, public juvenile facilities in 1985 held 2,080 young adults, roughly the same number as in 1983. The overwhelming majority of these young adults held in public juvenile facilities (95%) were in California, where young adult offenders may be committed to California Youth Authority (CYA) facilities with juveniles. On February 1, 1985, only six States held adults in public juvenile facilities:

State	Number of adults
California	1,984
Indiana	52
Minnesota	26
New York	14
Tennessee	3
Iowa	1

The average daily population of juveniles in publicly operated juvenile facilities during calendar year 1984 was 47,496, somewhat less than the 1-day count of February 1, 1985. Unlike the 1-day count, which increased slightly between the 1983 and 1985 censuses, the average daily population of juveniles decreased about 2% between 1982 and 1984.

Table 2. Juvenile population and confinement rate for public facilities by region and State, 1983 and 1985

	Number of juveniles			Number of juveniles in custody per 100,000 juveniles in the population[a]		
	1983	1985	Percent change	1983	1985	Percent change
United States, total	48,701	49,322	1%	176	185	5%
Northeast[b]	5,335	5,015	-6%	99	99	0%
Connecticut	163	202	24	56	74	32
Maine	208	242	16	137	167	22
Massachusetts	143	187	31	23	32	39
New Hampshire	138	152	10	111	127	14
New Jersey	1,775	1,508	-15	184	166	-10
New York	1,708	1,516	-11	104	98	-6
Pennsylvania	1,082	1,060	-2	73	76	4
Rhode Island	118	148	25	100	133	33
Midwest	11,456	11,382	-1%	159	166	4%
Illinois	1,621	1,534	-5	127	126	-1
Indiana	1,157	1,334	15	160	193	21
Iowa	377	399	6	101	112	11
Kansas	636	651	2	222	233	5
Michigan	1,754	1,733	-1	163	170	4
Minnesota	678	634	-6	127	125	-2
Missouri	878	815	-7	166	158	-5
Nebraska	250	269	8	126	140	11
North Dakota	108	94	-13	126	111	-12
Ohio	3,160	3,058	-3	225	230	2
South Dakota	174	193	11	195	222	14
Wisconsin	663	668	1	105	112	7
South	15,318	14,905	-3%	162	162	0%
Alabama	716	680	-5	135	133	-1
Arkansas	288	274	-5	95	93	-2
Delaware	253	190	-25	229	264	15
District of Columbia	360	281	-22	554	461	-17
Florida	2,161	2,179	1	183	189	3
Georgia	1,261	1,053	-16	190	161	-15
Kentucky	650	609	-6	132	130	-2
Louisiana	1,469	1,188	-19	274	200	-27
Maryland	1,201	1,377	15	214	263	23
Mississippi	423	410	-3	114	114	0
North Carolina	724	798	10	125	142	14
Oklahoma	468	314	-33	117	80	-32
South Carolina	696	647	-7	184	175	-5
Tennessee	1,047	1,128	8	174	195	12
Texas	1,936	2,209	14	110	125	14
Virginia	1,523	1,456	-4	219	218	-1
West Virginia	142	112	-21	55	45	-18
West	16,592	18,020	9%	297	327	10%
Alaska	159	201	26	265	314	18
Arizona	632	905	43	170	244	44
California	11,559	12,524	8	390	430	10
Colorado	561	581	4	148	156	5
Hawaii	144	149	3	117	123	5
Idaho	186	118	-37	140	87	-38
Montana	193	204	6	184	198	8
Nevada	419	451	8	395	425	8
New Mexico	453	511	13	237	275	16
Oregon	712	702	-1	218	222	2
Utah	155	170	10	70	73	4
Washington	1,252	1,342	7	237	260	10
Wyoming	167	162	-3	226	231	2

Note: Data are for February 1 of each year.
[a]Juveniles in the population are persons 10 years old through the statutorily defined maximum age subject to juvenile court authority in each State.
[b]Vermont did not operate any public juvenile facilities.

The West was the only region in which the number of juveniles in custody in public juvenile facilities increased between 1983 and 1985, up 9% (table 2). The greatest decline was in the Northeast (down 6%), followed by the South (down 3%) and the Midwest (down 1%). California had the largest juvenile population in public facilities in 1985 (12,524), followed by Ohio (3,058), Texas (2,209), and Florida (2,179).

The number of juveniles in custody on February 1, 1985, represented 185 per 100,000 juvenile residents of the United States at least 10 years old, 5% higher than the 1983 rate of 176 per 100,000. The District of Columbia, the only wholly urban jurisdiction, had the

Table 3. Admissions and discharges for public juvenile facilities during 1982 and 1984

	1982	1984
Admissions[a]		
Juveniles	523,975	521,607
Males	418,100	417,041
Females	105,875	104,566
Adults	6,225	6,152
Discharges[b]		
Juveniles	516,459	515,301
Males	409,092	412,073
Females	107,367	103,228
Adults	6,140	5,602

[a]Admissions include new entries, reentries and transfer entries.
[b]Discharges include final exits, transfer exists, exits to supervision, and unauthorized exits.

highest rate of confinement to public juvenile facilities (461), followed by California (430), Nevada (425), and Alaska (314).

Population movement

During 1984 there were more than one million admissions to or discharges from public juvenile facilities, about the same number as in 1982 (table 3). The number of juvenile admissions (521,607) was slightly higher than the number of juvenile discharges (515,301). Thus, 1984 juvenile admissions were 11 times greater than the average daily population. Admissions include new entries, reentries, and transfer entries. Discharges include final exits, transfer exits, exits to supervision, and unauthorized exits.

Females accounted for about 20% of all admissions and discharges. In addition, 11,754 adults were admitted to or discharged from juvenile facilities (about 1% of total transactions). These figures are similar to those for calendar year 1982.

The Northeast region admitted and discharged the fewest juveniles—just over 82,000—and the West the most—more than 400,000 (table 4). More than half of the admissions and discharges in the West occurred in California, which had the largest volume of any State.

Demographic characteristics

Males constituted 86% of the juvenile custody population in 1985 (table 5). The male population was 1% larger than in 1983; the female population, 4% larger.

Whites were 61% of the juvenile population; blacks, 37%; and other races, 2%. Hispanics accounted for 13% of the juvenile population.

About 82% of the juveniles in custody on February 1, 1985, were 14-17 years old, 11% were 18-20, and 6% were 10-13.

Table 4. Juvenile admissions and discharges for public juvenile facilities, by region and State during 1984

	Number of admissions	Number of discharges
United States, total	521,607	515,301
Northeast*	41,638	40,730
Connecticut	1,704	1,678
Maine	784	777
Massachusetts	2,784	2,737
New Hampshire	847	847
New Jersey	13,649	13,024
New York	7,377	7,409
Pennsylvania	13,861	13,629
Rhode Island	632	629
Midwest	112,110	110,008
Illinois	16,111	15,562
Indiana	15,821	15,478
Iowa	2,725	2,677
Kansas	3,179	3,179
Michigan	13,318	12,966
Minnesota	8,640	8,462
Missouri	10,101	10,023
Nebraska	2,456	2,389
North Dakota	557	579
Ohio	32,737	32,372
South Dakota	1,598	1,575
Wisconsin	4,867	4,746
South	158,007	156,123
Alabama	7,512	7,197
Arkansas	1,919	1,906
Delaware	1,021	1,047
District of Columbia	6,012	5,819
Florida	32,462	32,154
Georgia	14,466	14,552
Kentucky	5,420	5,280
Louisiana	5,370	5,337
Maryland	8,653	8,491
Mississippi	4,642	4,660
North Carolina	4,392	4,368
Oklahoma	2,480	2,516
South Carolina	4,546	4,464
Tennessee	13,824	13,515
Texas	30,509	30,263
Virginia	13,405	13,164
West Virginia	1,374	1,390
West	209,852	208,440
Alaska	2,441	2,381
Arizona	10,636	10,470
California	133,462	132,619
Colorado	9,322	9,197
Hawaii	2,863	2,847
Idaho	1,176	1,173
Montana	478	421
Nevada	5,697	5,666
New Mexico	8,014	8,027
Oregon	7,965	8,067
Utah	5,414	5,374
Washington	22,107	21,931
Wyoming	277	267

* Vermont did not operate any public juvenile facilities.

Adjudication status

Juveniles in public detention facilities may be detained (awaiting adjudication, disposition, or placement), committed (adjudicated for an offense or for treatment), or voluntarily admitted (by themselves or referred by parents, the court, or a social agency) without adjudication.

Table 5. Demographic characteristics and adjudication status of juveniles held in public juvenile facilities, 1983 and 1985

	Number of juveniles	
	1983	1985
Total	48,701	49,322
Sex		
Male	42,182	42,549
Female	6,519	6,773
Race[a]		
White	27,805	29,989
Black	18,020	18,269
Other[b]	1,104	1,084
Ethnicity[a]		
Hispanic	5,727	6,551
Non-Hispanic	41,202	42,771
Age on census date		
9 years and under	42	60
10-13 years	3,104	3,181
14-17 years	39,571	40,640
18-20 years	4,804	5,409
21 years and over	86	32
Not reported	1,094	0
Adjudication status		
Detained	13,156	14,474
Committed	35,178	34,549
Voluntarily admitted	367	299

Note: Data are for February 1 of each year.
[a]Excludes 1,772 cases for which race and ethnicity were not reported in 1983.
[b]American Indians, Alaskan natives, Asians and Pacific Islanders.

On February 1, 1985, 70% of the juveniles in custody had been committed; 29% were detained; and 1% were voluntarily admitted. For admissions and discharges during 1984 the proportions were reversed: the vast majority (80%) were accounted for by detained juveniles, compared to 19% for committed juveniles.

Reasons held in custody

There are three reasons juveniles are detained in or committed to public juvenile facilities: (1) they have been accused of, or adjudicated delinquent for, acts that would be crimes if committed by an adult; (2) they have been accused of, or found to have committed, "status offenses" such as running away, truancy, curfew violations, possession of alcoholic beverages, or incorrigibility—acts that are not criminal offenses if committed by adults; or (3) they have been placed in the care or custody of the State because of dependency, neglect, abuse, or other reasons.

The overwhelming majority (93%) of juveniles in public custody on February 1, 1985, were being detained pending adjudication for a criminal offense or had been committed after a finding of delinquency for a criminal

offense (table 6). Most of the rest were status offenders.

Nearly a fifth of the juveniles held for delinquent behavior were detained or committed for the specific crimes of murder, forcible rape, robbery, or aggravated assault. Almost half (48%) the juveniles held for delinquent behavior were detained or committed for property offenses, and most of these for the crimes of burglary, arson, larceny-theft, or motor vehicle theft.

Other delinquent acts for which juveniles were either detained or adjudicated included alcohol and drug offenses (6%), public order offenses (4%), and probation violations (10%).

A higher percentage of male than female juveniles in public facilities were held for reasons of delinquent behavior (96% vs. 76%). Even though females comprised only 14% of all juveniles in custody in public juvenile facilities in 1985, they were 52% of all those held for status offenses.

Table 6. Juveniles held in public juvenile facilities, by reason held, 1985

	Number of juveniles		
	Total	Male	Female
Total	49,322	42,549	6,773
Juveniles detained or committed for:			
Delinquent acts[a]	46,086	40,929	5,157
Violent	12,245	11,214	1,031
Murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault	8,656	8,096	560
Other	3,589	3,118	471
Property	22,020	19,978	2,042
Burglary, arson, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft	16,129	14,948	1,181
Other	5,891	5,030	861
Alcohol/drug offenses	2,660	2,319	341
Public order offenses	1,936	1,505	431
Probation violations	4,557	3,652	905
All other offenses[b]	2,668	2,261	407
Status offenses[c]	2,293	1,096	1,197
No offenses[d]	644	364	280
Juveniles voluntarily admitted	299	160	139

Note: Data are for February 1, 1985.
[a]Acts that would be criminal if committed by adults.
[b]Includes unknown and unspecified offenses.
[c]Acts that would not be criminal for adults such as running away, truancy, and incorrigibility.
[d]Those held for dependency, neglect, abuse, emotional disturbance, or mental retardation.

Table 7. Number of juveniles in public juvenile facilities by adjudication status and facility type, 1985

	Number of juveniles				
Type of facility	Total	Committed	Detained	Voluntarily admitted	Number of facilities
Total	49,322	34,549	14,474	299	1,040
Short-term	15,739	2,230	13,502	7	481
Institutional	15,286	2,225	13,058	3	428
Open	453	5	444	4	53
Long-term	33,583	32,319	972	292	559
Institutional	25,266	24,446	760	60	253
Open	8,317	7,873	212	232	306

Note: Data are for February 1, 1985.

Table 8. Public juvenile facilities and juvenile residents by facility type and level of government, 1983 and 1985

	1983			1985		
	Total	State facilities	Local facilities	Total	State facilities	Local facilities
Facilities	1,023	444	579	1,040	455	585
Short-term	459	82	377	481	86	395
Institutional	389	68	321	428	81	347
Open	70	14	56	53	5	48
Long-term	564	362	202	559	369	190
Institutional	232	187	45	253	199	54
Open	332	175	157	306	170	136
Juvenile residents	48,701	31,156	17,545	49,322	31,014	18,308
Short-term	15,203	3,808	11,395	15,739	3,602	12,137
Institutional	13,904	3,107	10,797	15,286	3,528	11,758
Open	1,299	701	598	453	74	379
Long-term	33,498	27,348	6,150	33,583	27,412	6,171
Institutional	24,527	21,743	2,784	25,266	22,325	2,941
Open	8,971	5,605	3,366	8,317	5,087	3,230

Note: Data are for February 1 of each year.

Facility characteristics

The 1,040 public juvenile facilities in operation on February 1, 1985, varied by purpose for confining juveniles—long-term vs. short-term—and by the type of environment—institutional vs. open (table 7). (For an explanation of facility classifications see "Methodology.") Long-term facilities held two-thirds of the juveniles in custody, primarily those who had been adjudicated and committed or placed for treatment. Short-term facilities housed mainly juveniles awaiting adjudication, commitment, or placement.

More than half (54%) of the public facilities in 1985 were long-term facilities. About 96% of the juveniles in long-term facilities were committed, while 86% of the juveniles in short-term facilities were detained.

Both short-term and long-term facilities may have either institutional or open environments. Institutional environments generally allow limited access to the community and place greater restraints on the movement of residents within the facility. Open environments provide relatively frequent access to the community and have minimal restraints on the movement of residents within the facility.

Facilities with institutional environments constituted 65% of all facilities and housed 82% of the juvenile population. While short-term facilities were overwhelmingly institutional in nature (89%), a majority of long-term facilities were open (55%). Nonetheless, long-term institutional facilities housed many more juveniles than did long-term open facilities (25,266 vs. 8,317). Taking into account both the purpose and type of environment, the largest percentage of facilities were short-term facilities with institutional environments (41%). However, 51% of the juveniles were in

Table 9. Public juvenile facilities and resident population by design capacity and percent occupied, 1983 and 1985

	Public juvenile facilities with design capacity of:									
	Less than 40 residents		40–99 residents		100–199 residents		200 or more residents		All facilities	
	1983	1985	1983	1985	1983	1985	1983	1985	1983	1985
Number of facilities operating at:										
Less than capacity	453	467	135	154	76	78	27	25	691	724
Capacity	90	107	10	6	4	2	1	2	105	117
More than capacity	104	84	43	34	40	34	28	32	215	184
Total	647	658	188	194	120	114	56	59	1,011	1,025
Number of residents in facilities operating at:										
Less than capacity	4,897	5,340	5,976	6,801	7,952	8,060	6,328	5,497	25,153	25,698
Capacity	1,259	1,524	583	307	451	200	200	515	2,493	2,546
More than capacity	2,413	2,041	3,087	2,632	6,081	5,289	11,546	13,165	23,127	23,127
Total	8,569	8,905	9,646	9,740	14,484	13,549	18,074	19,177	50,773	51,371

Note: Data are for February 1 of each year, but exclude 10 facilities that did not report design capacity in 1983 and 15 that did not report design capacity in 1985. Design capacity is the number of residents a facility is constructed to hold without double bunking in single rooms and without using areas not designed as sleeping quarters to house residents.

long-term facilities with institutional environments.

The number of public juvenile facilities increased by 2% between 1983 and 1985 (table 8). In 1985, nearly two-thirds of the long-term facilities were State-operated, while more than four-fifths of the short-term facilities were run by city or county authorities. Most juveniles in public facilities (63%) were held in facilities operated by State authorities.

Among juveniles in State facilities, 72% were held in long-term institutional settings, up 3% from 2 years earlier. Among juveniles in locally operated facilities, 64% were housed in short-term institutional settings, up 9% from 1983.

Design capacity and occupancy rates

In 18% of the public juvenile facilities in 1985 resident populations exceeded design capacity (table 9). The comparable figure in 1983 was 21%. Facilities operating above design capacity housed 45% of all residents in 1985, about the same as in 1983.

Generally, the larger the design capacity of the facility, the more likely it was to house more residents than it was constructed to hold. In 1985 facilities with a design capacity of 100 or more residents that were operating above capacity accounted for 6% of all facilities but housed 36% of all residents.

Operating costs

Nationwide operating costs for public juvenile facilities totaled more than $1.2 billion for 1984. The per-capita cost for 1 year of housing in a public juvenile facility was $25,200, ranging from about $22,700 in the South and $22,900 in the West to $26,100 in the Midwest and $39,900 in the Northeast (table 10). Per-capita costs varied substantially among States, ranging from $15,200 in Florida to $66,100 in Connecticut.

Table 10. Public juvenile facilities and per-resident operating costs by region and State, 1984–85

	Number of facilities	Average cost to house one resident for 1 year*		Number of facilities	Average cost to house one resident for 1 year
United States, total	1,040	$25,200	Delaware	4	21,800
			District of Columbia	4	33,700
Northeast*	146	39,900	Florida	53	15,200
			Georgia	26	24,100
Connecticut	4	66,100	Kentucky	39	25,200
Maine	1	25,400	Louisiana	13	21,900
Massachusetts	9	39,500	Maryland	18	16,800
New Hampshire	2	30,000	Mississippi	8	15,700
New Jersey	54	26,300	North Carolina	25	28,200
New York	39	52,600	Oklahoma	12	54,000
Pennsylvania	35	44,000	South Carolina	12	35,200
Rhode Island	2	35,900	Tennessee	21	20,800
			Texas	54	22,100
Midwest	278	$26,100	Virginia	59	26,100
			West Virginia	5	23,200
Illinois	20	24,100			
Indiana	33	17,800	**West**	235	$22,900
Iowa	13	29,200			
Kansas	12	28,800	Alaska	4	46,700
Michigan	52	35,900	Arizona	17	21,900
Minnesota	19	39,100	California	109	21,300
Missouri	43	22,900	Colorado	12	28,100
Nebraska	4	21,900	Hawaii	3	29,900
North Dakota	3	27,000	Idaho	3	43,100
Ohio	65	22,600	Montana	7	27,400
South Dakota	5	16,800	Nevada	8	28,500
Wisconsin	9	29,000	New Mexico	11	19,200
			Oregon	14	25,100
South	381	$22,700	Utah	15	32,000
			Washington	30	29,300
Alabama	23	19,100	Wyoming	2	22,400
Arkansas	5	22,400			

Note: Facility count data are for February 1, 1985. Cost data are for the year 1984. Average cost to house one resident for 1 year was calculated by dividing each State's total operating costs for the year by its average daily resident population for the year.
*Vermont did not operate any public juvenile facilities.

The overall average cost to house one resident for 1 day in 1984 was $69 and the average cost per placement, about $2,800 (table 11). The cost to house one resident 1 day varied by facility type and environment. The cost in short-term facilities ($76) was more than in long-term facilities ($66), and the cost in institutional facilities ($72) was more than in open facilities ($56). The cost per placement, however, based on the average length of stay, was substantially higher for long-term facilities ($11,433) than for short-term facilities ($1,009), and was higher for open facilities ($6,028) than for institutional facilities ($2,557).

Length of stay

Juveniles discharged from public facilities during 1984 who had been detained pending adjudication, disposition, or placement had an average stay of 12 days in custody (table 12). On the other hand, those who had been committed to custody by court authorities stayed an average of 163 days (just over 5 months). Finally, those who had entered custody voluntarily stayed an average of 32 days. (For an explanation of how average length of stay was calculated, see "Methodology".)

Committed juveniles discharged from long-term facilities with institutional environments had the longest average length of stay, almost 8 months. Voluntarily admitted juveniles discharged from short-term institutional facilities had the shortest average stay, 9 days.

Methodology

The 1985 census collected information on 1-day counts of juveniles and facilities as of February 1, 1985, and annual data for the calendar year 1984. Similarly, the 1983 census collected information for February 1, 1983, and for calendar year 1982.

Data were obtained through mailed questionnaires. A followup mailing and phone calls were used to encourage reporting. The response rate in 1985 was 99.9%.

Residential programs and group homes in operation on February 1, 1985, were included in the census if they housed more than three residents; if at least 50% of the residents were juveniles; and if accused or adjudicated delinquents and status offenders were at least 1% of their average daily population. In California, however, all California Youth Authority facilities were included in the census. Juvenile facilities operated as part of adult jails were excluded, as were nonresidential facilities, facilities exclusively for drug or alcohol abusers or nonoffenders, and Federal juvenile correctional facilities.

Each facility was classified as either short-term or long-term based on the purpose for which most juveniles were held. Short-term facilities typically hold juveniles awaiting adjudication or other disposition. Long-term facilities generally hold juveniles who have been adjudicated and committed to custody.

The environment of each facility was also categorized as institutional or open based on security arrangements and the degree of access residents had to community resources. Institutional environments impose greater restraints on residents' movements and limit access to the community. Most detention or diagnostic centers, training schools, and ranches were classified as having institutional environments. Open environments allow greater movement of residents within the facilities and more access to the community. Facilities with open environments included mainly shelters, halfway houses, group homes, and a few ranches.

Estimated average length of stay data were calculated for each adjudication status (detained, committed, and voluntarily admitted) for each facility type (institutional, short- or long-term, and open, short- or long-term). In contrast with previous years, average length of stay data were weighted by the number of juveniles discharged in each adjudication status. Thus, comparisons with earlier figures are inappropriate.

Table 11. Average per-day and per-placement operating costs in public juvenile facilities, 1984

	All facilities	Short-term facilities	Long-term facilities
Average cost to house one resident for 1 day[a]			
All environments	$69	$76	$66
Institutional	72	76	69
Open	56	81	54
Average cost per placement[b]			
All environments	$2,799	$1,009	$11,433
Institutional	2,557	999	12,969
Open	6,028	1,420	7,737

[a]Per-day operating costs were calculated by dividing annual operating costs by the average daily resident population and then dividing by 366.

[b]Per-placement operating costs were calculated by multiplying the per-day costs by the average length of stay in days for each facility, then averaging over facilities in each category.

Table 12. Average lengths of stay for juveniles discharged from public facilities by adjudication status, 1984

	Average length of stay in:		
	All facilities	Short-term facilities	Long-term facilities
Total			
All environments	41 days	12 days	174 days
Institutional	36	13	187
Open	108	18	142
Detained			
All environments	12	12	21
Institutional	12	12	20
Open	19	17	24
Committed			
All environments	163	30	216
Institutional	162	30	238
Open	164	14	166
Voluntarily admitted			
All environments	32	18	34
Institutional	27	9	32
Open	34	30	34

New releases from BJS:

- Children in custody: 1982/83 census of juvenile detention and correctional facilities, 11 pp., NCJ-101686, 9/86.
- Prosecution of felony arrests, 1981, 129 pp., NCJ-101380, 9/86.
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- National criminal defense systems study, 120 pp., NCJ-94702, 9/86.

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